

Roxbury Community College



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GATEWAY GAZETTE



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RCC GOES TO THE POLLS



Photo by Judy Kahalas

Chelsea Clinton listens to state Rep. Marie St. Fleur at a RCC gathering at the Reggie Lewis Center the week before the Feb. 5 primary. Sheriff Andrea Cabral also spoke.

WHO DID YOU VOTE FOR? WHY?

Students and other members of the Roxbury Community College (RCC) community have been involved in determining who will be the candidates in the historic presidential election in November. They were interviewed about their preferences last month before and after the primary on Feb. 5. They were asked in which primary they voted; for whom they voted; what factors determined their vote; if race or gender influenced them; and what their candidate has done for minorities.

Everyone interviewed said they voted in the Democratic primary. When asked what their candidate has done for minorities, everyone said they don't know

Stanley Ackelebee, 20, is a history major from Martha's Vineyard currently residing in Hyde Park. He said, "I want someone who is for the people. I'm going to vote for Obama." Race or gender did not play a part in his choice, he said. "I chose Obama because he gives me a feeling of hope."

Kani Obundalay, 18, is an art major from Maryland currently attending Northeastern. She said, "I want a president who is about

Nicole is a RCC student majoring in biological science. She said she is a Democrat, although, "At one time Republicans were the people's party. During the reconstruction era it was the newly freed slaves' party. Long since then the Republicans have become the champion of the elite and big business. The rest of us suffer for it. The Democrats on the whole are not the ideal party, but preferable to what's left." This election

—By RCC Journalism 1 Students

day unifier. "Taking a step ahead, what a ticket Barack and Hillary would make, or even Hillary and Barack," she said.

Emma is an RCC student studying nursing. Coming from a country long plagued by corruption and post colonial placed rulers, the opportunity for her to vote is tantamount to freedom, she said. Her belief is that with Democrats come jobs and possible economic gain for working

CHELSEA CLINTON CAMPAIGNS AT RCC

BY JUDY KAHALAS

Walking into the Reggie Lewis Center last month, Chelsea Clinton—the daughter of a father who was a US President and a mother, US Senator Hillary Clinton, who is campaigning for the office—came to help spread her mother's message at Roxbury Community College (RCC) the week before the Mas-

sachusetts primary.

Chelsea Clinton is an accomplished individual in her own right who holds an undergraduate degree from Stanford University and a master's degree from University College at Oxford. Until recently, she worked for a high-powered financial firm in Manhattan.

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major from Maryland currently attending Northeastern. She said, "I want a president who is about action. I voted for Hillary Clinton because she makes me feel like she'll get a great deal accomplished. She was the great woman behind Bill [Clinton]'s big ordeal. She managed to keep her head high and give her husband all the support he needed to go on." She said neither race nor gender played a part in her primary vote, "but the fact that Hillary has come as far as she has is truly inspiring and uplifting to women across the US. I feel that there will be plenty of women voting for Hillary because of history as well as the difference she can make."

—By Brittany Fernandes

it. The Democrats on the whole are not the ideal party, but preferable to what's left." This election Barack Obama is her choice she said because of his commitment to a new fresh approach that will change policy, thereby bonding the classes socially and economically.

"The thought that race is the foremost attraction is as demeaning to blacks as the idea that women will vote solely for another woman. Blacks possess sound strong minds that formulate individual opinions which lead to educated intelligent decisions. The political future of our people is far too important for clannish voting," she stated. She said she sees Barack as the present

she said. Her belief is that with Democrats come jobs and possible economic gain for working class people. "Barack Obama, so polished, exploding with intellect, keen oratory skills, vision, and strong African genes, will get my vote. It's no wonder the entire African diaspora is watching," commented Emma.

For race or gender to be an issue in choice would be insulting to both Democratic frontrunners' supporters was her take on the question. "If only we dared to follow the outcry from Obama's Midwestern constituents, we might become a far better, stronger nation," Emma said.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM HAS WINNING YEAR

BY ERIN HARPER

After a four-year hiatus from competitive play, the Roxbury Community College (RCC) Women's Basketball Team has just finished the season as winners. The Lady Tigers, with a 10-8 regular season record, also earned a playoff spot in the Massachusetts State Tournament.

Unfortunately, the women lost to top-seeded Holyoke Community College, 67-49, on Feb. 23 at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. According to fans, the game seemed much

closer than the final score indicated.

Freshman guard Brandi Santiago had by far her best game of the season, grabbing 10 rebounds and adding 8 points. Freshman guard Kiel Banks had a team-high 18 points.

"Qualifying for the playoffs this season, which many considered a rebuilding year, is a tremendous accomplishment for the team and coaching staff," said RCC Athletic Director Keith McDermott.

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Photo by Milton Samuels

Roxbury Community College Lady Tigers freshman guard Ashley Murchison takes a jump shot during a game at the Reggie Lewis Center versus Quinsigamond Community College. Under the supervision of head coach Mark Leszczyk and assistant coaches Shakur Yahya and Cody Elicier, the reinstated women's basketball team is having a successful season after a four-year hiatus.

CHELSEA CLINTON

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Clinton was introduced to RCC students and faculty by two local elected officials, state Rep. Marie St. Fleur and Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral.

St. Fleur spoke about Senator Clinton's experience and her proven leadership. "We need someone who knows where the bones are buried and how to uncover them," she said. "Government has a role

to play in enhancing the lives of all people. Experience counts."

Cabral told the audience that, in her opinion, President Bush "has mortgaged our future." She also noted the importance of Hillary Clinton's experience. "The best indicator of what somebody will do is what they've already done," she said.

The younger Clinton responded to several questions from students. When asked what her mother would do to help students struggling financially, she mentioned

the \$3,500 tax credit that families will receive for every child in college, access to more Pell Grants and the value of Americorps, which offers loan postponement. If elected, Hillary Clinton would try to increase to \$10,000 the amount given to college-bound citizens who have served at least one year in Americorps, her daughter said.

On the immigrant issue, Chelsea Clinton mentioned "The Dream Act," which would offer citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants who have earned

associate degrees or served two years in the military. Illegal immigrants need to "come out of the shadows," she said.

Hillary Clinton serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee and, according to her daughter, noted during her requested debriefing that there is no plan in place with regard to exiting Iraq. According to Clinton, her mother believes that the US should not be refereeing. Iraq needs to find its own political solutions.

At the RCC forum, Chelsea

Clinton spoke on several other issues, and once, when she didn't know the answer, requested the e-mail address of the student who asked the question so she could gather more information. After the formal question-and-answer session, Clinton stayed for several minutes and spoke informally to students and faculty.

The writer is coordinator of the RCC Writing Center and faculty adviser to The Gateway Gazette.

WHO & WHY

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Bryant, a state employee and father of an RCC student, said he feels this state and nation have suffered enough from years of Republican leadership. "If not subjected to Republican setbacks, I'm sure I would have secured funds to enroll my daughter in a four-year school as opposed to a two-year school prior to a four," Bryant said. Barack Obama is his man. He said that not only does he see Obama bringing new leadership and a better perception abroad, but he also sees Obama inspiring generations of children to aspire

to greatness. "Why do prejudices always raise their ugly heads? Obama is not the first black to run for president nor is Clinton the first female. The race and gender card didn't factor before, so why would they be critical now? Is it just because one of them is assured the nomination?" Bryant wondered.

—By Earl Ingram

Kathleen Tracey, 24 years old and a third-year student at RCC majoring in business management, said she is voting for Hillary Clinton. Tracey said she is voting for Clinton based on gender. There's never been a woman president," Tracey said. "I liked it when President Clin-

ton was in office. Things were much better then." Tracey said she believes that it's important for her to vote for Clinton because she remembers that women didn't have the right to vote. Tracey made it clear that she's voting primarily based on race, but she felt it was important to add that blacks would also base their vote on the premise of race. "I think that blacks are going to vote for Obama," she said. "Blacks didn't have a lot of rights as well. I think if you're prejudiced against women or black people, that's going to determine your vote."

Micris Godfrey, who is 22 years old and attending his first semester at Roxbury Commu-

nity College, said is voting for Obama. He said he feels that it's time for a black president. "I'd like to see Obama win. It's time for an educated Black man in the oval office," he said. Godfrey, who said he is confident that Obama will create positive changes for all Americans, will continue to support Obama. "I believe that most black people will support Obama as well. We [blacks] have come all long way. Yes, we've had a black man run for president before. However, he wasn't as polished and articulate."

—By Najya Mawasi

Denise Badgett, 31, is a broadcast media technology student from Dorchester. She said she is for Obama and is voting for him because he is black. She said, "We are just excited to have a black man running." She's a

will do for our country. She said race and gender had nothing to do with her decision at all, just the fact that she likes the Clinton family and would like to see our country be run again by a Clinton. On the other hand, Adianez stated that most black people will be inclined to vote for Barack Obama because of his race

Delilah Ortiz is a sophomore at RCC, and she will be voting for Hilary Clinton to be our first female president. She said she thinks that most women are inclined to vote for Hillary because of her gender and because they would like to see our first female president and how she will run our country. As for herself, she said, "Race or gender had nothing to do with my decision."

G.N is a sophomore at RCC and a criminal justice major.

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she is for Obama and is voting for him because he is black. She said, "We are just excited to have a black man running." She's a Democrat and said, "I am just ready for a black man to win."

Betsey Santana, 21, is an Independent from Waltham. She is a broadcast technology student. She said she is for Clinton because her husband, former president Bill Clinton, is behind her. She said she feels that black people are going to vote for Obama because he can do something for the community. She said she doesn't support people based on race or gender, just on their achievements.

—By James McGruder

Adianez N. is a sophomore at RCC, and she said she would be voting for Hillary Clinton in the primary. She said she decided to vote for Hillary because she is interested to see what Hillary

gender had nothing to do with my decision."

G.N is a sophomore at RCC and a criminal justice major. She said her decision to vote for Hillary Clinton had nothing to do with the fact that she is a woman. She said likes Hillary and she would like to see how she will do running our country. G.N said that women will be inclined to vote for her because she will be the first female president, and many women like her would love to have a female president for once. G.N also stated that most black people will be inclined to vote for Barack Obama just because he is black, and they also would love to see the first black president running our country.

—By Chariselle Negron

The writers are all students in Journalism 1 at RCC.

Roxbury Community College GATEWAY GAZETTE

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Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and any other information for the Gazette to jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu. All submissions are subject to editing. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily

reflect those of the newspaper.

Faculty advisors: Judith Kahalas and Sandra Storey

Student staff includes Adler Fedestin, Brittany Fernandes, Earl Ingram, Najya Mawasi, James McGruder, Chariselle Negron and Nadine Wilkerson.

Research Reveals

ADJUNCT FACULTY: FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?

BY KRIS KRATSAS

There was a point in time when adjunct faculty, previously regarded as “road scholars,” “experts,” or “visiting professors” were esteemed for their knowledge. Today, “adjunct faculty have become a contingent and expendable workforce” (Wallin). While their credentials are often parallel to those of their full-time colleagues, their pay and benefits have likened them to being a part of an “intellectual sweatshop” (Meyer).

The largest number of adjunct faculty can be found roaming the halls of community colleges; in contrast they are least heavily used among major universities (Leslie 19). “The adjunct faculty phenomenon is more intense in community college settings, as

they are: more responsive to business, political, and cultural demands, less steeped in academic traditions, have the virtue of doing more with less, and are marketed as inexpensive education” (Rizzo). They are used “most heavily in areas that put a premium on flexibility, innovation, and non-disciplinary teaching skills” (Leslie 21). “In certain areas, adjuncts have more current knowledge than full-timers because they are out in the field working every day” (Meyer).

“The motives in using adjunct faculty appear to be complex; they are anything but purely economic” (Leslie 15). First and foremost, adjunct faculty are a direct link between the community and the college (Wallin). The reliance on adjuncts is also largely enrollment driven (Leslie 29). When

the college experiences an increase in enrollment, they are able to add additional faculty on a part-time status to assist for the semester, with no contract or obligation to keep them after the semester has ended. Therefore, the number of faculty members can be adjusted each semester depending on enrollment.

Unlike larger universities, the enrollment can greatly fluctuate semester to semester in community colleges (Leslie 29). Other reasons for using adjunct faculty include: “to teach multi-section courses, to cover for missing full-time faculty until they return or can be replaced, to cover unanticipated enrollments both in terms of number of students and subjects taught, and to provide labor-intensive clinical work such as supervising nursing students or student teachers” (Wallin). In employing a majority of adjunct instructors, community colleges are able to offer students the broadest array of courses (Philippe).

Adjunct faculty not only have an impact on the institution’s bottom line, but also on the success of the students. One study from the Iowa found that “when freshmen took a higher percentage of their courses

with part-time faculty, they were less likely to persist toward their degree” (Jacoby). “Research suggests that students who take many courses with adjunct faculty are less likely to graduate” (Finder). Another larger spectrum study used observations dating back to 1986, when the study began. “The study concluded that for each 10% increase in the percentage of faculty employed part-time at four-year institutions, graduation rates decrease by 2.65%” (Jacoby).

“Several studies of individual universities have determined that freshmen taught by many part-timers were more likely to drop out” (Finder). “Having an adjunct in a course is not necessarily bad for you, but having too many adjuncts might be,” said Eric Bettinger, an economics professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland (Finder). “The part-time system also provides few incentives to foster rich interactions between faculty and students, and thus undermines the campus-learning environment” (Jacoby). The lack of pay and benefits for adjunct faculty gives them little incentive to fully participate in the institution and the success of their students (Jacoby). “Paltry pay offers part-timers little incentive to keep

long hours doing course preparation or advising students outside the classroom, where considerable learning occurs” (Meyer).

Individuals once termed as “experts” or “road scholars” are now given the title of adjunct instructor, and are rewarded for their knowledge and abilities with paltry pay and a lack of benefits.

It is clear that the use of adjunct instructors to such great extent is something that needs to be evaluated. California has concluded that a community college filled with adjunct instructors is not worth the savings. They in turn passed legislation mandating that 75 percent of instruction at community colleges must be provided by full-time instructors (Meyer). Perhaps this will be the reincarnation of showing adjunct faculty the respect they deserve while providing students with an education that receives the funding and attention it is entitled to.

This article was excerpted from a research paper for an honors composition class written by a RCC student. Please send written comments on adjunct faculty to jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu for possible publication. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Continued from page 1

Statistically, the women had an impressive showing in many categories this season. The team was led by freshman forward Ashley Murchison, a former standout at Burke High School in Dorchester. Murchison finished the season leading the country with 18.3 rebounds per game and was 21st with 17.4 points per game for the Lady Tigers. Georgette Pineda, a Providence, R.I. native, averaged 17.8 points, 8.4 assists and 6 steals per contest. Additional stellar contributions were made by Banks, Ester Coelho, Venus Trent and Esther Jean.

"The women had a terrific season, and with a small squad, they really accomplished a lot. They should be very proud," said Head Coach Mark Leszczyk.

Because RCC had no Women's Basketball Team for four years, the players were young, and the bench was not crowded with extra athletes to put in as substitutes.

"Earning a spot in the state tournament shows a lot about the dedication the women have put into this season," said Leszczyk. "They have had a terrific year."

Leszczyk and Assistant Coaches Shakur Yahya and Cody Elicier were hired at the beginning of the season to reinstate the Lady Tigers basketball program after the long hiatus.

"The coaching staff did an impres-



Photo by Milton Samuels

Roxbury Community College Lady Tigers freshman Georgette Pineda takes a shot during a game at the Reggie Lewis Center versus Quinsigamond Community College. A Providence, R.I. native, Pineda averaged 17.8 points, 8.4 assists and 6 steals per contest this season.

sive job building and mentoring the team. The players have shown tremendous commitment," said McDermott.

RCC is recognized as the first Junior College inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000.

The writer is Sports Information Director for the Reggie Lewis Center and RCC Athletics.



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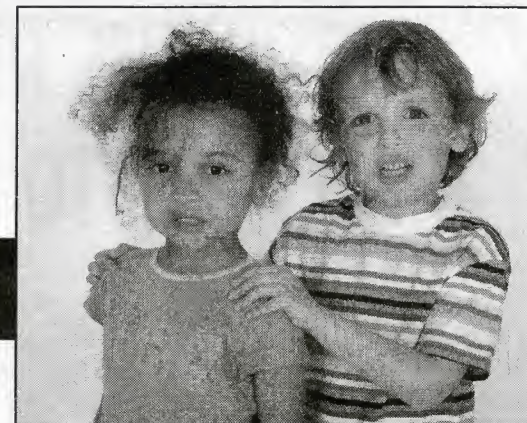
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OPINION

WOULD ELECTION OF A WOMAN OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRESIDENT MEAN THE US IS FREE OF PREJUDICE?

BY ADLER FEDESTIN

I heard the line many times as an adolescent, "This country would never elect a black president." It might have been said slightly differently, but the theme was quite the same. It didn't mean that a black person will never be qualified, but that this country simply won't elect an African-American as president. The idea doesn't seem so farfetched now.

As we inch our way towards the fall election, there is a very good chance that an African-American will represent one of the two major parties in the race for the White House. His main competition is not representing a race but an entire gender. Either one being elected would be a sign of progress, but, one must ask, would this lead many people into a false sense of security?

Let's fast-forward to 2009. President Bush has left office, and either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton are being sworn into office. The sight would be one that would stick with many from that day forward. But would the world as we know it have changed? It will have moved one foot forward, but the other foot would be left in the past. The exterior of our red, white and blue vehicle would look brand new, but in the interior would lay scars and stains that won't disappear over night.

Many women would still face sexism at the workplace, on the street and in everyday life, and a majority of African-Americans would still be faced with the same problems. Either Obama or Clinton would stand as a symbol for change, but how long are we to wait to feel the wind of change? If Barack and Hillary stand at the

forefront, how long will it take for the breeze of fresh air to hit the people at the back?

Let's take a step back to take a better view of things. If Obama or Clinton are elected, would this help many people fall deeper into a cloud of illusion? Would we have an America that has problems, but we give turn a blind eye to them? Or will those filled with prejudices cling to their vote as a badge of their forward thinking? For example, we need to prepare ourselves to hear this line: "Oh, I can't possibly be racist/sexist. I voted for Obama/Clinton."

Maybe I'm being too cynical, but maybe these are some questions that need to be asked. Or maybe, just maybe... my feet are still left in the past, too hesitant to step into the uncertain future with these two optimists.

The writer is a student in Jour-

RCC FACULTY, STAFF TO BOWL FOR BOOKS

BY JUDY KAHALAS

Members of the faculty, staff and administration of Roxbury Community College (RCC) will hold their second annual Bowl-a-Thon at Milky Way Lounge and Lanes at 403 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain on April 14 to raise money for student books.

Recognizing the financial burden that the cost of books places on students, the committee has dedicated the fund-raiser to help subsidize the purchase of books for deserving students.

Last year the Bowl-a-Thon was a huge success, augmented by a raffle, an auction and pledges. Faculty and staff who bowled got their friends, family and colleagues to sponsor

them, whether per pin, total score or flat donations. Professor Kyriss Rodriguez got one of the highest overall amounts of pledges, and he was one of the highest scorers.

Interested students are welcome to serve on the committee. Committee members are Dean Nancy Teel; Professor Michelle Harrel; Professor Veronica McCormack; William Larson, facilities electrician; and Thomas Galvin, director of facilities.

For more information or to volunteer, e-mail jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu.

The writer is coordinator of the RCC Writing Center, faculty adviser to The Gateway Gazette and chair of the Bowl-a-Thon committee.

Arts Review

RCC THEATRE DOES BRECHT PROUD

BY EARL INGRAM

Many thanks to the Roxbury Repertory Theatre (RRT) at Roxbury Community College (RCC) for

city of New York, stood out from the rest. So comfortable in her character was she, her lines flowed with ease, and expression poured from her face,

STUDENTS NEED TO FOLLOW

STUDENTS NEED TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS TO GET SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JUDY KAHALAS

Many deserving Roxbury Community College (RCC) students were denied RCC Foundation Scholarships for which they applied because they failed to read and follow the directions of the application. Unfortunately, the committee could not make exceptions. Consequently, thousands of dollars that could have been awarded to needy students will be carried over to next semester.

Academic excellence and documented need are basic criteria for many of the awards that went un-

claimed. Why? The committee feels that students also need to demonstrate an ability to follow clear guidelines and directions. Many students forgot even the most basic tasks such as signing the application, getting appropriate signatures from faculty or department chairs or writing the required essay. Students should know that essays are not three sentences stating that they are applying for a scholarship.

Students who plan to apply for a Foundation Scholarship next semester should make sure that they carefully read and fully understand the directions and that they qualify

for the specific award for which they've applied. They need to get the required signatures, fill in the form completely and attach an essay. The Writing Center will hold two workshops, one in the day and one in the evening, to review applications and explain the different qualifications for each. Students should make sure they attend one of these so that they can be eligible for a scholarship. Money is waiting to be claimed!

The writer is coordinator of the RCC Writing Center, faculty adviser to The Gateway Gazette and on the RCC Scholarship and Honors Com-

Many thanks to the Roxbury Repertory Theatre (RRT) at Roxbury Community College (RCC) for its presentation of "Brecht Unplugged" last month. The play was a welcome addition to campus activities. Whether an activist, politically or socially motivated, or just out for a good time, audience members found it enlightening. The play was written, performed and questioned ideals in a spirit that mimicked Bertholt Brecht's work. Transposed into our present day situation, it confronted our recent engagements into war, the relevance, the possible outcomes, the bonds formed, common relationships (positive and negative), persons that gain by it, those that suffer from it, military attitudes, those that condone it, and those that fail to act, thereby condoning it. The staunchly proletarian effort keyed on the arrogance of human nature.

The actress who played mother and narrated the fate of the late great

rest. So comfortable in her character was she, her lines flowed with ease, and expression poured from her face, all combining to assert believability. In the play the women's performances were noteworthy; the teenagers and children performed well beyond their years; and the men, who got off to a rocky start, vastly improved.

The visual and aural elements of the stage, or lack there of, reflected the theme Brecht made popular. Minimal props, solitary white lighting and sound rendered from two live instruments, conveyed the socialist atmosphere, barren of extravagance. From one to four, four being the top, I rated it a three, judged solely on the attempt to emulate Brecht's work. He would be proud. Somewhere he's applauding.

For more information about Roxbury Repertory Theatre, call 541-5380 or e-mail rrt@rccmainstage.com.

The writer is a student in Journalism 1.

SALAD IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN SOUP

BY GINETTE ACEVEDO

When I think of America I think of the beauty that makes America what it is today, which is the variety of cultures and ethnicities within it. The US is a country that accepts, acknowledges, but also celebrates the diversity that makes it special and unique.

The "salad concept" of America embraces the different cultures and ethnicities, their values and customs, but enables them to mix

together and become a whole of diversity. The "soup concept" describes pretty much of a melting pot that evaporates the identity and uniqueness of the different types of people that make up this country, leaving them only to adopt the American culture and become "Americanized," which makes us all the same.

It is this diversity that has revolutionized and brought about changes in America. Diversity has also shaped and molded America into what it is today,

adding to its values and customs. It has been a key that has slowly driven out racism and discrimination and that continues doing so by constantly showing that we are all different. Blending ingredients violates our rights as human beings and undoes all the progress America has made since the time of slavery and since the existence of Native American tribes who were forced to adopt the American culture.

The writer is a student at RCC.

POETS' CORNER MERCILESS

BY SHERMAN PIERRE

She took my heart
Not kindly, not gently
But with the force of a brutal savage.
She ripped it from my chest still beating
And with utter delight proceeded to devour it.
Her words tore into its soft delicate exterior
Like sharp but jagged teeth.
"I DON'T LOVE YOU."
They slowly and mercilessly chewed into the crevices
Where love once lived.